

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

BOARDS OF TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF MENDON,

INCLUDING REPORT OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FOR THE

MUNICIPAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 7, 1892.

MILFORD, MASS.

DAILY JOURNAL PRINTING HOUSE.

1892.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The undersigned, Treasurer of the Town of Mendon, for the municipal year ending March 7, 1892, respectfully submits the following account of his doings.

The Treasurer debits himself with the following items, viz :

To cash received from Austin A. Taft, Treasurer of Mendon for the municipal year ending March 2, 1891.....	\$ 518 64
To cash borrowed on town notes.....	3000 00
Received of State Treasurer, balance Corporation tax, 1890-91.....	15 53
To cash received of State Treasurer :	
Corporation tax.....	\$352 09
National Bank Tax.....	484 28
Military Aid, chap. 279, acts 1889	36 00
State Aid, chap. 301, acts 1889...	658 00—1530 37
To cash received of State Treasurer, school fund.....	\$ 267 64
Received of County Treasurer, dog fund.	169 93
Received of Collector for the year 1890..	233 59
Received of Collector for the year 1891..	5739 62
Received of Edward L. Smith, rent of Town Hall to April 1, 1891.....	67 75
Received for Annals of Mendon.....	5 50
Received of G. B. Williams, use of telephone	12 35
Received of I. O. Rhodes, use of telephone	23 30
Received of School Committee.....	47 16
Received of I. O. Rhodes, hay scale fees	16 24
Received of John L. Davenport, auction- eer's license.....	2 00
Received of S. Warren Cook, auctioneer's license	2 00
Received of John C. Wood, alley license.	2 00
Received of A. W. Gaskill, old fence....	2 00

\$11,655 62

The Treasurer credits himself with the following items, viz :

By paying 206 Town Orders.....	\$7527 12
Six Town Notes.....	3000 00
Interest.....	75 50
State tax.....	435 00
Cash on hand.....	618 00

\$11,655 62

NATHAN R. GEORGE, Treasurer.

Mendon, Feb. 16, 1892.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen respectfully submit the following report of the expenditures of the town for the municipal year ending March 7, 1892:

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES

Wm. L. Johnson, M. D., returning 6 births in 1890...	\$ 1 50
L. D. Chipman, rent of room for extinguisher, 13 mos	13 00
John B. Mellen, care of fires at extinguisher room, 4 months.....	4 00
L. A. Cook, coal for extinguisher room.....	7 00
H. A. Barney, coal for extinguisher room.....	9 63
E. L. Smith, repairs on extinguisher.....	1 90
E. F. Wood, repairs on extinguisher.....	2 25
Gilbert Gaskill, repairs on lockup.....	2 40
J. Barry, work on watering trough.....	1 50
R. J. Haines, Selectmen's order book.....	11 00
E. C. Morris & Co., safe for Town Clerk.....	50 00
J. A. George, fare, freight and cartage of safe.....	7 76
M. W. Edwards, returning 8 deaths.....	2 00
James Powers, fees in O'Brien-Hoard case.....	6 88
E. L. Smith, fees Melinda Cummings case.....	3 12
L. Holbrook, insurance premium.....	2 00
I. O. Rhodes, special service July 4, 1891.....	2 00
Gilbert Gaskill, special service July 4, 1891.....	2 00
Gilbert Gaskill, serving dog notices.....	1 00
H. C. Adams, cash paid for express, etc.....	6 16
J. A. George, cash paid for express, etc.....	3 46
I. O. Rhodes, telephoning case of L. D. Cheney.....	0 80
M. A. Wolahan and others, monument site.....	50 00
F. H. Wood, labor and material, monument foundation	39 65
O. W. Hill, labor on monument foundation.....	10 00
John M. Towne, labor on monument foundation.....	5 25
C. B. Williams, labor on monument foundation.....	20 80
A. W. Gaskill, labor on monument foundation.....	32 25
J. A. George, cement for monument foundation.....	3 18
T. N. Sherman, curbing.....	140 00
Worcester Brass Band, and expenses.....	110 50
R. M. Yale & Co., decorations.....	29 90
J. A. George, cash paid out as per bill.....	10 60
Mathewson Bros., caterers.....	82 50
I. O. Rhodes, use of telephone.....	60 00
I. O. Rhodes, moving telephone.....	3 00

\$738 99

CARE AND SUPPLIES FOR TOWN HALL.

E. L. Smith, care of hall to April 1, 1891.....	\$55 00
E. L. Smith, sundries for hall to April 1, 1891.....	10 05
L. A. Cook, coal to April 1, 1891.....	44 79
L. A. Cook, coal to April 1, 1892.....	41 13
A. G. Chilson, paint, painting and papering.....	12 64
Avery & Woodbury, paper.....	5 30
C. Ellis & Sons, stove door.....	1 40
	<hr/>
	\$170 31

PRINTING.

Cook & Sons, town reports of 1891.....	44 75
Cook & Sons, tax bills and notices.....	4 50
G. M. Billings, registrar's notices.....	1 25
	<hr/>
	\$50 50

SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Gilbert Gaskill, lockup keeper to April 1, 1891.....	5 00
Erwin A. Snow, assessing taxes of 1891.....	35 00
A. W. Gaskill, assessing taxes of 1891.....	35 16
W. S. Wilcox, assessing taxes of 1891.....	35 00
Frank C. Wood, services as inspector, State election...	2 50
Patrick E. Brigdale, services as inspector, State election	2 50
E. L. Smith, services as constable to March 7, 1892...	15 00
H. C. Adams, services as town clerk and registrar....	21 85
L. Freeman, services as collector of taxes of 1890.....	65 00
A. W. Gaskill, services as selectman and registrar....	28 00
L. Freeman, services as selectman and registrar.....	25 00
J. A. George, services as selectman and registrar.....	54 40
N. R. George, services as treasurer 1891-1892.....	35 00
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	\$359 41

MILITARY AID, CHAPTER 279, ACTS OF 1889.

John Oarkford.....	\$78 00
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SOLDIERS' RELIEF, CHAPTER 298, ACTS OF 1889.

Abel G. Weatherhead.....	\$36 00
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STATE AID TO PENSIONERS, CHAPTER 301,
ACTS OF 1889.

John Curley.....	\$72 00
James McKenna.....	48 00

Rufus Hazard.....	48 00
Catherine Foley.....	2 00
Abel G. Weatherhead	120 00
George W. Scisco.....	48 00
David A. Kingman.....	72 00
Waterman Taft.....	48 00
Dexter Inman.....	72 00
Caleb V. Smith.....	48 00
Jason G. Cummings.....	36 00
Sydney W. Goodell.....	48 00
Elijah Rockwood.....	8 00
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	\$670 00

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The Selectmen, as required by Chapter 98 of the Acts of 1889, appointed Mr. F. H. Wood superintendent of streets, fixing his compensation at 25 cents per hour of actual service. His work has been done "under the direction of the Selectmen," and to their satisfaction. Attention is called to his report, following.

Payments on account of roads and bridges have been made as follows, viz :

Dennis Holloran, shoveling snow.....	\$0 50
A. E. Brown, filling frost holes.....	4 54
F. H. Wood, superintendent, as reported below, 15 orders	1561 64
	<hr/>
	\$1566 68

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS, SCHOOL BOOKS, INCIDENTALS AND APPARATUS.

Paid School Committee, 93 orders.....	\$2542 23
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SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid Overseers of the Poor, 12 orders.....	\$935 00
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THE TAFT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Paid Trustees, 4 orders	\$380 00
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RECAPITULATION.

Incidentals	\$738 99
Town Hall.....	170 31
Services of Town Officers.....	359 41
Printing	50 50
State Aid to Pensioners, Chap. 301.....	670 00
Military Aid, Chap. 279.....	78 00
Soldiers' Relief, Chap. 298, 1889.....	36 00

Roads	1566 68
Schools	2542 23
Poor	935 00
Library	380 00
	<hr/>
	\$7527 12

The Selectmen also report that the available assets of the town, known to them, are as follows, viz.:

Due from Collector, list of 1891.....	\$311 68
Due from State, aid to soldiers, Chap. 301, to Jan. 1, 1892, 12 months.....	666 00
Due from State, aid to soldiers, Chap. 301, to March 1, 1892, 2 months.....	118 00
Due from State, aid to soldiers, Chap. 279, to Jan. 1, 1892, 12 months.....	38 00
Due from State, aid to soldiers, Chap. 279, to March 1, 1892, 2 months.....	8 00
Cash in hands of the Treasurer.....	618 00—\$1759 68

The liabilities of the town, so far as known, are as follows:

Outstanding bills, estimated.....	\$50 00
Due town officers.....	70 00
Due school teachers, at close of term.....	218 00
Due school superintendent, at close of year.....	60 00—\$398 00

Net balance in favor of the town.....	\$1361 68
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Respectfully submitted,

JULIUS A. GEORGE,	} Selectmen of Mendon.
ALBERT W. GASKILL,	
LIBERTY FREEMAN,	

Mendon, Feb. 16, 1892.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1891.

Schools	\$1600 00
School Text Books.....	200 00
School Incidentals.....	200 00
School Apparatus.....	50 00
School District Superintendent.....	300 00
Support of Poor.....	900 00
Roads and Bridges.....	1500 00
Taft Public Library.....	225 00
Interest	100 00
Town Incidentals.....	400 00

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

LIBERTY FREEMAN, COLLECTOR FOR 1890.

Dr.

Balance uncollected, Feb. 15, 1891.....	\$226 19	
Interest received.....	11 40	
	<hr/>	\$237 59

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer.....	\$233 59	
Abatements.....	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$237 59

LIBERTY FREEMAN, COLLECTOR FOR 1891.

Dr.

Taxes committed for collection.....	\$6551 34	
Additional assessment.....	2 00	
Interest received.....	26 57	
	<hr/>	\$6579 91

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer.....	\$5739 62	
Paid County tax.....	501 00	
Abatements	27 61	
	<hr/>	\$6268 23
Balance uncollected Feb. 15, 1892.....		<hr/> \$311 68

REPORT OF OVERSEERS OF POOR.

The Overseers of Poor submit the following report for the municipal year ending March 7, 1892 :

John W. Barry, Mary C. Taft, Edna Allen, Jennie Davenport, the children of Andrew Gould, Geo. H. Wood, Francis R. Scisco, Sally Mellen, Eva Carlton Welles and family, Phileana W. Bean, Edna M. French, Ezra Allen, Sarah Gabry, Dennis Holland (having a settlement in Mendon), Mary McDuffy and child (belonging to the State), James D. Wilber (probably to Natick), Jason G. Cummings and wife and Joseph H. Wood and wife (to Uxbridge), Mrs. G. H. Gabry (to Milford) have been wholly or partially supported

The Overseers charge themselves with the receipt of the following named funds belonging to the town :

Balance from last year	\$0 21	
Twelve town orders.....	935 00	
Town of Northbridge.....	65 00	
A. W. Gaskill, guardian for Dennis Holland	96 30	
		<hr/> \$1096 51

The Overseers credit themselves with paying the following amounts :

FOR SUPPORT OF		
John W. Barry.....	\$169 46	
Mary C. Taft.....	100 00	
Edna Allen.....	117 00	
Jennie Davenport.....	18 00	
The children of Andrew Gould.....	120 00	
George H. Wood.....	20 00	
Francis R. Scisco.....	24 00	
Sally Mellen.....	14 00	
Eva Carlton Welles.....	145 15	
Phileana W. Bean.....	54 12	
Edna M. French.....	17 25	
Ezra Allen.....	14 00	
Sarah Gabry.....	13 00	
Dennis Holland.....	96 30	
Mary McDuffy and child.....	10 00	
James D. Wilber.....	40 50	
Jason G. Cummings and wife.....	17 14	
Joseph H. Wood and wife.....	15 00	
Mrs. George H. Gabry.....	3 00	
Gilbert Gaskill, care of tramps and fuel for lockup	34 70	

Henry W. Gaskill, services.....	6 00	
Gilbert Gaskill, services.....	6 00	
Liberty Freeman, services.....	35 00	
Liberty Freeman, postage.....	1 52	
Cash on hand to balance.....	5 37	
	<hr/>	\$1096 51
From the whole amount paid for support of the poor.....		1091 14
Deduct what was due for the support of the paupers to March 2, 1891.....	\$72 04	
What has been paid out for Mary McDuffy and child.....	10 00	
What has been paid out for Jas. D. Wilber.	40 50	
What has been paid out for Jason G. Cummings and wife.....	17 14	
What has been paid out for Joseph H. Wood and wife.....	15 00	
What has been paid out for Mrs. Geo. H. Gabry....	3 00	
What has been paid out for Dennis Holland	96 30	
	<hr/>	\$253 98
		<hr/>
		\$837 16
Add what will be due for support of paupers to March 7, 1892.....		96 00
		<hr/>
Cost of supporting the poor for the year ending March 7, 1892.....		\$933 16
Due from the Commonwealth.....	\$10 00	
For James D. Wilber.....	40 50	
From Uxbridge last year....	12 50	
From Uxbridge this year.....	52 14	
From Milford this year.....	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$98 14

Respectfully submitted,

LIBERTY FREEMAN,	} Overseers of Poor.
GILBERT GASKILL,	
HENRY W. GASKILL,	

Mendon, Feb. 15, 1892.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

The Superintendent respectfully submits the following report for the year ending March 7, 1892:

Appropriation.....	\$1500 00	
The Superintendent debits himself to 15 town orders.....		\$1561 64
He credits himself by paying the following bills:		
S. Brooks, for labor.....	76 50	
G. A. Staples, ".....	78 95	
L. P. Cummings, ".....	78 30	
John Broughy, ".....	36 45	
N. G. Barrows, ".....	32 70	
H. M. Goldthwait, ".....	80 10	
O. W. Hill, ".....	30 10	
J. M. Towne, ".....	93 15	
Martin Grady, ".....	3 00	
Jacob Conwell, ".....	4 90	
Willis Southwick, ".....	3 50	
E. T. Bates, ".....	1 20	
G. B. Cromb, " with team...	130 70	
C. B. Williams, " " ...	178 10	
Frank H. Wood, man and team furnished..	361 40	
Frank H. Wood, as superintendent.....	214 50	
E. A. Bates, for labor, sleepers and plank.	9 43	
Gilbert Gaskill, for labor and gravel.....	8 20	
Edward Dudley, for gravel.....	37 44	
James Best, ".....	0 95	
A. W. Gaskill, ".....	5 00	
A. J. Spofford, ".....	17 30	
M. Harrington, ".....	8 00	
C. H. Howe, ".....	3 05	
Willis Gould, for plank and gravel.....	21 15	
Austin Wood, for sleepers.....	2 25	
Frank H. Wood, cash paid as per bills.....	20 32	
H. W. Brown, for repairs.....	4 90	
John Barry, ".....	5 40	
Clark Ellis & Sons, for supplies.....	14 70	
		\$1561 64
Team work.....		490 20

FRANK H. WOOD, Superintendent of Streets.

Mendon, Feb. 15, 1892.

REPORT OF TOWN CLERK.

DOGS REGISTERED IN 1891.

87 Male dogs.....	\$174 00	
8 Female dogs.....	40 00	—\$214 00
Registration fees.....		19 00
		<hr/>
Balance paid County Treasurer.....		\$195 00

BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 1891.

Date of Birth.	Name of Child.	Name of Parents.
1890.		
Jan. 18.	Mary Best.	James and Ellen Best.
1891.		
Feb. 24,	Walter Hooper Wood.	Edwin F. and Annie H. Wood.
May 28,	Arthur Alonzo Brown.	Samuel A. and Mary I. Brown.
May 30,	Jason Samuel Edwin Everton.	Samuel E. and Mary S. Everton.
June 21,	Alfreda Richardson.	Israel B. and Laura Richardson.
June 23,	Chester Alfred Wheeler.	Lyman E. and Susan I. Wheeler.
July 22,	Bertha Spooner Harris.	Geo. W. and Carrie A. Harris.
Aug. 25,	Ethel May Albee.	Albert and Anna Albee.
Sept. 4,	Raymond Kelley.	Wm. D. and Sarah J. Kelley.
Sept. 16,	Annie McDuffey.	Mary McDuffey.
Oct. 29,	Walter Morton Chipman.	Lewis D. and Jennie Chipman.
Nov. 22,	Davis Erastus Hill.	Davis and Malvina F. Hill.
Dec. 16,	Lorare Sarah Brooks.	Samuel and Selina Brooks.
Dec. 18,	John Best.	James and Ellen Best.
Dec. 19,	John George Barrows.	Alfred I. and Lizzie A. Barrows.

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN 1891.

Date.	Name of Groom and Bride.	Residence of each.
May 18, 1891.	Edward H. Taft.	Mendon.
	Serena E. Eames.	Providence, R. I.
July 3, “	Frank S. Hayward.	Hopedale, Mass.
	Mary L. Taft.	Mendon, “
July 26. “	Willoughby W. Quinn.	Worcester, “
	Elliphall C. Davis.	Worcester, “
Oct. 14. “	William H. French.	Hopedale, “
	Sarah A. Howe.	Mendon, “
Nov. 18, “	Henry H. Creamer.	Uxbridge, “
	Emma E. Cornwall.	Mendon, “

DEATHS REGISTERED IN 1891.

Date.	Name.	Yrs. Ms. Ds.	Residence.
Feb. 21.	Annie E. Morris.	28 0 0	Mendon.
Mar. 6.	Louisa Bates.	64 1 0	"
Mar. 11.	David Beal.	76 4 8	"
Mar. 23.	Sally Mellen.	90 5 23	"
May 6.	Henry A. Aldrich.	78 8 13	"
May 12.	Maria P. Bates	70 6 21	"
June 27.	Abigail Mitchell.	83 3 27	"
June 29.	Mary Best.	1 5 0	"
July 2.	James F. Morris.	19 0 22	"
July 27.	Hortense L. Babb.	0 5 6	Boston.
Sept. 3.	Caroline E. Brooks.	1 2 0	Mendon.
Sept. 22.	Lyman D. Cheney.	56 0 21	Milford.
Oct. 5.	James R. Davis.	74 11 21	Mendon.
Oct. 7.	James M. Staples.	83 6 27	"
Oct. 8.	Eliza Staples.	78 5 2	"
Nov. 24.	Abby A. Brown.	47 8 23	"
Nov. 28.	John R. Best.	91 5 8	"
Aug. 5.	Mary Coleman.	63 0 0	"

The attention of parents and others is called to the report of vital statistics. Owing to the lack of conformity to the law requiring returns to be made by parents, next of kin or householders, said vital statistics are obtained by the Town Clerk from the best information obtainable. Physicians do not make their returns as promptly as the law requires, and often not at all. And although the penalty for neglect was increased a few years since, it has had little effect.

The importance of accurate registration cannot be overestimated. The decision of questions of legitimacy, of legal settlement in towns and other contested points, may often depend upon facts which can in no way be obtained except from the record of births, marriages and deaths. Especially is this true in establishing the claims of soldiers and sailors or their families upon the government, and in securing the identification of their wives or relatives. Cases have several times been brought to my knowledge where parties have been put to considerable trouble and expense, also serious delay, in the prosecution of their claims through defects in the records, and in each case the absence of the facts desired was due to the parties themselves and not to the lack of duty of former town clerks. Probably no class of records is more incomplete than is the record of marriages; many times the entry of the intention will be found, but no record of the marriage. Clergymen and others authorized to perform the marriage rite, either through carelessness or ignorance of the law, fail to make their returns as required by statute. If every person realized the importance of

accurate registration, and would interest themselves sufficiently in it to see that in their particular case it was properly done, much needless expense and delay in connecting families and establishing claims could in the future be obviated. The growing interest in genealogy, the custom of celebrating town anniversaries, with the attending historical addresses and the established importance of matters of record, lead persons to consult the records much more than formerly. If any errors are noted in the above table of vital statistics, I shall be glad to have my attention called to them, and will cheerfully correct the same. Blanks necessary for making returns can be obtained of the Town Clerk free.

HORACE C. ADAMS, Town Clerk.

Mendon, Feb 13, 1892.

TAFT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TAFT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

In the removal from town of Gustavus B. Williams, Esq., the Library lost the services of one who had been a Trustee from the establishment of the Library, and who had devoted a large amount of thought and labor to its best interests and prosperity. The vacancy caused by Mr. Williams' resignation was filled by the choice of Erwin A. Snow.

To fill that caused by the resignation of Miss Lena Williams as Librarian, the Trustees were fortunate to secure the services of Miss Annie W. Gaskill, who also completed the preparation of the manuscript for the new catalogue. This catalogue, which has been in contemplation some time, is now published and ready for delivery. The compiling and printing of the same may seem, to those unacquainted with such matters, to have cost an unnecessarily large sum, but considering the quality of the work, the catalogues are obtained at a very reasonable figure. The time had come when a new and more comprehensive catalogue must be had, if the full benefit of the Library was to be realized, and the Trustees hope they have furnished one that meets all reasonable expectations. The manuscript for it was prepared by Miss Williams, the former Librarian, assisted by Miss Carrie A. R. Ford, and the present Librarian.

The catalogues were printed by Mr. G. M. Billings, of the Milford Gazette, and neither he nor his able assistant spared any effort to make them accurate, and a credit to the Library.

The Trustees have put the price at a low figure, that every family may have at least one, and relieve the Librarian of the often unpleasant task of selecting books for others.

The thanks of the citizens are extended to all who have made donations to it, or in any way contributed to the success of the Library the past year.

The books were examined Feb. 9th current, and found accounted for and in satisfactory condition.

Two copies of the Annals of Mendon have been sold, and three copies exchanged for other town histories, the past year.

The Trustees have engaged Miss Gaskill as Librarian for the ensuing year.

We recommend an appropriation of one hundred and seventy-five dollars for the use of the Library the ensuing year.

JULIUS A. GEORGE,	}	Trustees Taft Public Library.
HORACE C. ADAMS,		
ERWIN A. SNOW,		

Mendon, Feb. 13, 1892.

LIBRARIAN'S ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE TAFT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Library was re-opened for the delivery of books, Feb. 14, 1891.

The whole number of books given out from the Library during the year has been 3472—114 less than last year.

The largest number delivered on any Saturday was 101; the smallest number, 36; the average number, 68.

The delivery by divisions was as follows: Agriculture, 7; Biography, 50; History, 145; Travel, 118; Educational, 30; Miscellaneous, 100; Poetry, 43; Novels, 2590; Periodicals, 389.

The Library has been increased by 145 volumes, making a total of 2953. This addition was obtained from the following sources: The town purchased 57, and secured 3 in exchange for the Annals of Mendon; Rev. Carlton A. Staples gave 35 volumes, besides a large number of pamphlets: 13 were presented by Hon. J. H. Walker, who has also furnished the Library with the Official Gazette of the U. S. Patent Office for 1 year; 6 by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Others contributing 1 volume are: Hon. W. G. Veazey, Hon. Geo. Fred Williams, J. M. Rusk, Secretary of Agriculture, John Guy Vassar, F. A. Tupper, Bell street Chapel, Providence, R. I., Insurance Companies, Hartford, Conn., Miss Sally V. Allen and John B. Mellen.

Gen. Wm. F. Draper has given 1 year's subscription to the Social Economist, a monthly magazine.

Twenty volumes were magazines given principally by Rev. C. A. Staples, Julius A. George and Edith Bennett, and bound by the town, the past year.

All books were returned on Feb. 6.

ANNIE W. GASKILL, Librarian.

Mendon, Feb. 8, 1892.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Report of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Taft Public Library for the year ending Feb. 9, 1892:

Dr.

To cash on hand.....	\$0 62
“ received on 4 town orders.....	380 00
“ “ Annie W. Gaskill, cards, fines, etc..	9 56
	<hr/>
	\$390 18

Cr.

By cash paid Geo. W. Tucker, for labor.....	\$1 75
“ “ Eli Bates, for wood.....	5 00
“ “ J. A. George, expressage.....	1 45
“ “ W. B. Clarke & Co., books and binding..	73 51
“ “ Lena Williams, services as Librarian....	24 00
“ “ “ labor on catalogue and cash paid.....	26 69
“ “ G. M. Billings, labels.....	2 25
“ “ Carrie A. R. Ford, labor on catalogue...	25 80
“ “ G. M. Billings, labels.....	2 00
“ “ Geo. H. Walker & Co., atlas.....	15 00
“ “ G. M. Billings, paper and express.	6 00
“ “ Annie W. Gaskill, expressage and supplies	6 37
“ “ “ labor on catalogue.....	6 75
“ “ “ services as Librarian..	28 00
“ “ G. M. Billings, printing catalogue.....	165 00
Cash on hand.....	0 61
	<hr/>
	\$390 18

Respectfully submitted,

HORACE C. ADAMS, Treasurer.

Mendon, Feb. 12, 1892.

Examined, found correct, and with proper vouchers.

JULIUS A. GEORGE,	} Auditors.
ERWIN A. SNOW,	

Mendon, Feb. 13, 1892.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MENDON,

FOR THE

SCHOOL YEAR 1891—92.



MILFORD, MASS.

DAILY JOURNAL PRINTING HOUSE.

1892.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

1891-92.

ORGANIZATION.

FRANK H. WOOD, Chairman.....	Term expires	1894.
EDWARD DIXON, Secretary.....	"	1892.
LYMAN COOK.....	"	1893.

TRUANT OFFICERS.

W. W. NELSON.

LYMAN COOK.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF MENDON :

The following report of the School Committee is respectfully submitted :

The Committee organized March 7, 1891, and elected Frank H. Wood chairman and Edward Dixon secretary, and assigned the general care of school property as follows :

West and Albeeville, Frank H. Wood ; Center and North, Edward Dixon ; South and East, Lyman Cook. Edward Dixon was re-appointed school book agent.

During the summer, Mr. Dixon removed from town, thereby causing a vacancy in the School Board, which was filled by the election of Erwin A. Snow as his successor.

In the removal of Mr. Dixon, the town loses the services of one whose long experience with the schools, and whose knowledge of school matters, made him a valuable member of the School Committee.

The committee consider they were very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Nancy C. George, as superintendent of schools, and although her work did not begin until November, are very much pleased with it, as she is very much interested in the schools, and has devoted a large amount of time to ascertaining the condition and needs of the different schools. She is too well known by the people of Mendon to need any recommendation from the School Committee as to her ability.

We would particularly urge upon the citizens of Mendon the necessity of a suitable appropriation to continue the work begun by the present superintendent, as without a superintendent we cannot hope to have good schools.

We would respectfully recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year :

Support of Schools	\$1600 00
Text Books and Supplies.....	150 00
Incidentals	200 00
Apparatus	50 00
Superintendent	300 00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Support of schools.....	\$1600 00
Incidentals	200 00
Text books and supplies.....	200 00
Superintendent of schools.....	60 00
Apparatus.....	50 00

OTHER RECEIPTS.

Income from State school fund.....	\$267 64	
“ dog tax.....	169 96	
Due from out of town scholars, 1891-92...	25 00	
Received from sale of outbuilding.....	3 50	
Returned of Kate Chapin's bill.....	1 00	
	\$2577 10	

EXPENDITURES.

Teachers	\$1863 00	
Fuel	104 71	
Care of rooms.....	54 45	
Text books and supplies.....	272 35	
Incidentals	233 47	
Apparatus	14 25	
Balance unexpended.....	34 87	
	\$2577 10	
Amount due above what was due last year.	\$188 00	
“ unexpended	34 87	
	\$153 13	
Total excess of appropriations.....		\$153 13
Amount due above what was due last year, for support of schools.....		\$128 00
Resources for support of schools.....	\$2062 60	
Expended	2022 16	
	\$40 44	
Balance unexpended.....		\$40 44
Total excess of appropriation for support of schools		\$87 56

AMOUNTS CHARGED TO SCHOOLS SEPARATELY.

North school.....	\$334 32	
Primary and Grammar	652 63	
West	230 75	
Albeeville.....	197 16	
High.....	346 32	
East.....	173 00	
South	218 00	
School books and supplies.....	272 35	
Incidentals, general supplies.....	103 45	
Apparatus.....	14 25	
	<hr/>	\$2542 23

ACCOUNT IN DETAIL.

NORTH SCHOOL.

Ada C. Taft, teaching 31 weeks.....	\$240 00	
“ care of room.....	8 25	
L. A. Cook, 2 tons coal.....	13 00	
W. W. Nelson, 1 cord wood.....	4 00	
“ fitting same.....	1 80	
“ cleaning room.....	2 00	
“ repairs on seats.....	1 00	
“ use of well.....	3 00	
“ 212 feet boards.....	2 75	
“ care of fires.....	11 00	
“ labor on fence.....	45	
F. H. Wood, “ “ “	90	
G. M. Taft, posts.....	5 60	
Z. C. Field, lumber.....	16 57	
Weed Bros. & Lent, labor.....	24 00	
	<hr/>	\$334 32

HIGH SCHOOL.

W. S. Ricketts, teaching 6 weeks.....	\$90 00	
J. F. Allison, “ 16 weeks.....	245 00	
I. E. Jones, desks.....	11 32	
	<hr/>	\$346 32

EAST SCHOOL.

Lyman Cook, teaching 19 weeks.....	\$152 00	
“ 1 cord wood.....	2 50	
“ fitting 3 cords wood.....	4 50	
“ care rooms and fires, 3 bills..	3 00	

"	cash paid use of well.....	2 00	
E. T. Bates,	2 cords wood.....	7 00	
"	gravel and drawing.....	2 00	
			<hr/> \$173 00

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Mary A. Barrows,	teaching 22 weeks.....	154 00	
"	care of room.....	2 00	
Fred Gaskill,	teaching 8 weeks.....	48 00	
"	care of room.....	2 00	
L. B. Gaskill,	2 cords of wood and fitting..	12 00	
			<hr/> \$218 00

CENTRE SCHOOLS—GRAMMAR AND PRIMARY.

Cora A. Toothaker,	teaching 10 weeks.....	\$90 00	
Delphia S. Woodbury,	" 20 "	200 00	
Mary E. Dudley,	" 16 "	128 00	
"	" 14 "	126 00	
L. A. Cook,	4 tons coal.....	26 00	
Morton A. Holbrook,	care of rooms and fires	7 20	
E. A. Snow,	" "	6 50	
"	sundries.....	1 40	
Mrs. Scisco,	cleaning rooms.....	3 25	
Harry Dixon,	cutting and housing 2 cords		
	wood.....	4 00	
A. W. Gaskill,	2 cords wood.....	9 00	
Harry Dixon,	care of rooms and fires.....	5 00	
E. L. Smith,	use of well.....	7 00	
Harry Dixon,	labor.....	25	
A. W. Gaskill,	moving outbuildings.....	1 50	
"	1 day's work with man.....	3 00	
Charles H. Allen,	labor.....	12 32	
Z. C. Field,	lumber.....	5 34	
John Barry,	old bill.....	3 98	
A. C. Chilson,	labor and supplies.....	6 12	
E. A. Bates,	posts, old bill.....	2 60	
A. S. Pickering,	labor.....	1 97	
E. A. Snow,	repairs.....	2 20	
			<hr/> \$652 63

WEST SCHOOL.

Nancy C. Wood,	teaching 30 weeks.....	\$210 00	
"	care room.....	2 00	
A. E. Southwick,	" fires.....	3 00	
E. A. Bates,	1 cord wood.....	5 00	
F. H. Wood,	fitting same.....	1 75	

"	setting glass.....	25	
"	cleaning room.....	1 25	
H. M. Goldthwaite,	fitting wood.....	1 50	
E. L. Southwick,	use of well 2 years.....	6 00	
		<hr/>	\$230 75

ALBEEVILLE SCHOOL.

Bertha F. Albee,	teaching 30 weeks.....	\$180 00	
"	care of room.....	4 50	
G. M. Taft,	1 cord wood.....	4 38	
E. A. Bates,	1 ".....	5 00	
F. H. Wood,	fitting wood, 2 bills.....	3 28	
		<hr/>	\$197 16

INCIDENTALS FOR THE SCHOOLS IN GENERAL.

Edward Dixon,	treasurer 1890-91.....	\$10 00	
L. Freeman,	postage, etc.....	2 10	
Edward Dixon,	fare to Boston.....	2 00	
"	school book agent.....	20 00	
"	secretary of school committee	3 00	
"	supervisor of schools.....	7 50	
"	taking school census, North		
	and Centre.....	1 50	
Avery & Woodbury,	chair.....	1 65	
Cook & Sons,	monthly reports.....	3 00	
Express	.....	5 85	
Boston School Supply Company	.....	30 85	
J. B. Lippincott & Co.	.....	16 00	
		<hr/>	\$103 45

FRANK H. WOOD,
ERWIN A. SNOW,
LYMAN COOK.

SCHOOL BOOK AGENT'S REPORT.

Dr.

To books and supplies purchased:

J. B. Lippincott & Co	.....	\$64 20
Boston School Supply Co	.....	122 98
Thompson, Brown & Co	.....	6 00
J. L. Hammett & Co	.....	18 73
Houghton, Mifflin & Co	.....	8 05
Ginn & Co	.....	38 57
D. C. Heath & Co	.....	8 40
Kate Chapin	.....	2 40
E. A. Snow	.....	50

Oliver Ditson & Co.....	2 52	
To books and supplies on hand.....	6 39	
		<hr/> \$278 74

CR.

By books and supplies furnished :

High School.....	\$48 42	
Grammar School.....	36 12	
Primary School.....	43 50	
North School.....	24 20	
East School.....	20 15	
South School.....	27 80	
West School.....	14 90	
Albeeville School.....	15 49	
Books and supplies on hand.....	48 16	
		<hr/> \$278 74

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES ON HAND.

35 Davis First Readers.....	\$7 00	
31 " Second "	9 30	
12 " Fourth "	7 20	
2 Harper's First "	32	
3 Montgomery's U. S. Histories.....	1 59	
1 Eggleston's Primary History.....	35	
12 Wentworth's " Arithmetics.....	3 60	
7 Coggswell's Lessons in Numbers.....	1 75	
2½ doz. writing spellers.....	70	
5½ " " books.....	4 40	
11 " " primary.....	6 60	
2 bottles ink.....	70	
3½ gross art slate pencils.....	3 15	
1½ reams paper.....	1 50	
		<hr/> \$48 16

EDWARD DIXON, School Book Agent.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MENDON :

During the four months and a half since my election to this office, I have become acquainted with the schools of the town, and with the teachers ; have watched the methods of teaching employed, have noted merit and progress ; have observed defects and needs ; but the time has been too short, and my previous knowledge of the schools too slight, to accomplish much in the way of permanent improvements.

At the beginning of this term of service, every school was in session. Of the eight teachers, six had had charge of their respective schools for three terms, at least, and two of the six for a much longer time. There had been recent changes in the High School and Grammar. Miss Delpia S. Woodbury, a graduate from the Westfield Normal School, a teacher of experience, was finishing her first term's work in the Grammar School. Mr. J. Francis Allison, a graduate from Dartmouth College, had taught one month in the High School.

All these teachers proved to be conscientious and faithful, and the results of their work are more or less satisfactory.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

In spite of the fact that there were too many in this school, remarkably good work has been done by teacher and pupils. In reading, the thoughts contained in sentences have been impressed upon the minds of the children, and, as a result, many in the schools can read easy selections with intelligence and expression. In number, too, the work has been very satisfactory. The copy books showed neatness and great care.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

In the fall and winter, this school has been faithfully taught by Miss Woodbury. She has followed the methods of instruction approved by Normal schools. About the spring term, I know little, except that Miss Toothaker was a favorite with both pupils and parents. This school shows the effects of frequent changes in teachers, and irregular attendance : the scholarship is not what it should be. Surely it is a great mistake for any healthy boy or girl, who has not mastered the fundamental principles of arithmetic, and has not a fair knowledge of grammar and geography, to attend school only one term in the year, or a part only of each term. Parents should remedy this evil of irregular attendance, and the school committee should endeavor to permanently secure a thorough, wideawake teacher.

THE HIGH SCHOOL.

As usual, this school has not completed its year's work as the town reports go to press.

We are fortunate in having such a capable teacher as Mr. Allison. The different branches have been well taught, and good progress has been shown. There has been some advance in the department of the scholars, but it is not yet praiseworthy. There seems to be a lamentable impression among some of the pupils of both sexes, in the Mendon High School, that that institution is maintained for their amusement and entertainment. Until this impression is removed, the school cannot do its best work. One pupil has been suspended. When warnings and suspensions of short duration proved to have no lasting effect, it was deemed necessary to suspend the offender for the remainder of the year.

A class of seven is to be graduated on March twenty-fifth. While the School Committee and Superintendent desire to have an unpretentious graduation, we have been obliged to secure paid musicians, since the school, as a whole, is not musical, and has had no training in part singing. Would it not be a good plan to engage, in the future, a competent teacher to train the scholars in chorus music?

THE DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

These, with one exception, being small, have consequently lacked the enthusiasm of numbers, yet fair work has been generally done. In one or two schools, old methods of teaching have been used which are not advised; in some of the others, the new methods seemed to be more important than the knowledge acquired; in one, excellent work has been done. There is need of more systematic work and of a uniformity of methods.

In the South School, Mrs. Mary A. Barrows resigned at the end of the fall term, and Mr. Fred Gaskill, a graduate from the Hopedale High School, has had charge of the work during a short winter term. It is to be regretted that Mrs. Barrows was obliged to resign.

The East School has not finished its winter term, so full statistics cannot be given.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Attention is called to the following characteristics common to Mendon public schools:

Independence on the part of every teacher. This is exhibited in the subjects taught, in methods of instruction, in change of time for the beginning and close of school without reference to the School Committee, and even in keeping registers. The registers have been "filled up and returned" in several different manners,

some of them incorrectly. This independence can, of course, be readily accounted for, since the teachers have been obliged sometimes in the past to use their own judgments in many matters. But there is evident need of reform in these respects.

A general lack of ambition on the part of the scholars, and a spirit of lawlessness, developing especially among the older ones. Exceptions are noticeable, but there is cause for anxiety about our boys and girls, who are soon to be men and women, citizens and voters. What can be done for them? Have our schools failed in their duty, and if so, where?

I quote the words of a Superintendent well known in Massachusetts:

"The public schools are organized for the benefit of the public and for its protection. They are to produce manly men and womanly women, who shall repay, through their good citizenships, the expenses and labor bestowed upon them. If the schools fail of this, they do not accomplish that for which they were established. But schools cannot do everything. Parents, I fear, are inclined to trust too much to them. The home must second the school and the church aid both. Each of these has its own sphere in the educational scheme, and its own responsibilities."

BOOKS AND APPARATUS..

Quite a variety of text books are in use throughout the town. While it is certainly advisable to have more than one kind of reading books in the different grades, and also to have plenty of books for reference, there would be many advantages in having similar text books for all the schools.

Books have been purchased for the study of American literature, which has been introduced into the High School to fill a vacancy in the course. With books of reference from the Taft Public Library, this subject has been made interesting and profitable. If, in the future, one term be given to English literature and one to American, a deficiency in the course will be removed.

A few pieces of apparatus for the class in natural philosophy, have been purchased for the High School. There is need of many more in order to obtain best results from the study.

SUGGESTIONS.

1. That parents and other citizens take more interest in the welfare of the public schools.

2. That the teachers hold meetings, by which they may become more "alive to the demands that modern thought is making upon them," and at which meetings the most approved methods be uniformly adopted.

3. That would-be teachers do not assume such duties without a due sense of the importance and seriousness of the work.

Respectfully submitted,

NANCY C. GEORGE, Superintendent.

Mendon, Feb. 17, 1892.

ROLL OF HONOR.

The following have been neither absent nor tardy for the time specified :

One Term.

HIGH SCHOOL.—Dora Davenport, Abbie Taft, Florence E. Snow, Alice Quigley, A. Dwight Davenport, Arthur V. Pond, Wylie B. Stenson, Walter F. Towne, Grace G. Nutter, Estine Taft, Mary L. Wood, Ernest L. Tucker.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Jeremiah Driscoll, Nathan Towne, Bessie Cook, Clara Pond, Florence Taft, Minnie Moore. Clarence Moores, Jessie Rhodes, Minnie Wood.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.—Annie E. Kinsley, Earle B. Lowell, Bertie L. Moores, Oliver G. Moores, Ernest M. Pickering, Elmer I. Rhodes, Annie I. Wheeler, Jessie Wheeler.

NORTH SCHOOL.—Carrie Beal, Rosie Quigley, Arthur Beal.

SOUTH SCHOOL.—Ida M. Barrows, Ada A. Fletcher, Eliza D. Fletcher, F. Everett Darling, Willie A. Bebo.

EAST SCHOOL.—John D. Bates, Charles E. Cook, Norman Cook, Harry E. Bates.

ALBEEVILLE SCHOOL.—Mabel Wilcox, Otis Wilcox.

Two Terms.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Lewis Ford, Anna Kinsley.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.—Edward F. Driscoll, William Driscoll, John Driscoll, Belle Rhodes, Lillian Freeman, Edward F. Gaskill.

SOUTH SCHOOL. — Florence M. Barrows, Charles C. Daniels, Bennie I. Barrows, Raymond Barrows.

WEST SCHOOL.—Caroline S. Wood, William Broughey.

Three Terms.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.—Charles G. Gardner, Maud A. Taft.

Six Terms.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.—Fred A. Snow.

SCHOOLS.	TEACHERS.	Terms.	No. of Scholars.	Average Membership	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. of Attendance	No. of scholars under 5 years of age.	No. of scholars over 15 years of age.	No. of scholars bet'n 8 and 14 yrs of age	Wages of Teachers per month.
HIGH.	J. Francis Allison,	1	30	23.6	28	93			19	\$60
	"	2								
GRAMMAR.	Cora A. Toothaker,	1	26	24.8	23.4	90		1	25	36
	Delphia S. Woodbury,	2	24	22.8	21.2	88		1	18	40
	"	3	25	23.3	20.	80		2	19	40
PRIMARY.	Mary E. Dudley,	1	37	34.8	33.3	90	1		16	32
	"	2	41	38.5	37.2	91			19	38
	"	3	38	35.8	30.	79			21	36 ⁵⁸
NORTH.	Ada C. Taft,	1	21	16.	14.7	70			17	32
	"	2	23	22.5	21.3	93			15	32
	"	3	23	22.5	20.1	87			15	32
SOUTH.	Mary A. Barrows,	1	13	13	12.3	95	1		9	28
	"	2	14	14.	12.5	89			8	28
	Fred Gaskill,	3	12	9.9	8.1	68			9	24
EAST.	Lyman Cook,	1	17	17.	14.9	88			8	32
	"	2	16	15.2	14.	88			7	32
	"	3								32
WEST.	Nancy C. Wood,	1	10	9.7	9.5	95			7	28
	"	2	8	8.	7.7	96			5	28
	"	3	7	7.	6.5	93			4	28
ALBEEVILLE.	Bertha F. Albee,	1	7	5.9	5.3	76			4	24
	"	2	7	4.6	4.2	60		1	2	24
	"	3	8	6.5	6.	75		1	6	24

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I have examined the accounts of the Selectmen, Treasurer, Overseers of the Poor, Superintendent of Streets, Town Clerk, and Collector of Taxes of the Town of Mendon, and that of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Taft Public Library, for the past municipal year, and find them correctly kept and with proper vouchers.

CHARLES H. ALLEN, Auditor.

Mendon, Feb. 18, 1892.

TOWN WARRANT.

WORCESTER SS.—To the Constable of the Town of Mendon, in
the County of Worcester, GREETING :

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Mendon qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall, in said Mendon, on Monday, the seventh day of March, next, punctually at ten o'clock, A. M., to act on the following articles viz :—

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.

Article 2. To hear the reports of the several town officers and committees, and act thereon.

Article 3. To choose all necessary town officers for the year ensuing.

Article 4. To raise such sums of money as are necessary to defray town charges, and make appropriations of the same.

Article 5. To see if the town will accept section seventy-four, and the three following sections, of Chap. 27, of the Public Statutes, and under such acceptance, choose a board of Road Commissioners.

Article 6. To see if the town will require the School Committee annually to appoint a Superintendent of Schools; and if so, raise and appropriate money for his salary.

Article 7. To see if the town will vote to accept the list of jurors reported by the Selectmen, or make any alterations in the same.

Article 8. To see what measures, if any, the town will adopt to secure the speedy collection of taxes.

Article 9. To see if the town will vote to continue the High School.

Article 10. To see if the town will authorize the Treasurer to hire money to pay current expenses for the municipal year commencing March 7th, 1892, in anticipation of the collection of the taxes.

Article 11. To bring in their ballots "Yes" or "No" in answer to the question, "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

Article 12. To see if the town will continue communication by telephone with Milford, as security against destruction by fire, or act in relation thereto.

Article 13. To see if the town will determine what shall be the length of the school year.

Article 14. To see what amount, if any, the town will raise and appropriate for the purchase of school apparatus.

Article 15. To see if the town will accept the provisions of Chapter 431 of the Acts of 1888, relating to the employment of a superintendent of schools, and appropriate money therefor.

Article 16. To see what action, if any, the town will take towards procuring a safe or safes.

Article 17. To see what portion of its records, if any, the town will vote to have copied or made more complete.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof at each of the following places in said town, seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting, viz: At the post-office, and on the door of the schoolhouse in Albeeville, and at the post-office at South Milford.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Selectmen or Town Clerk, before the time of meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands at Mendon, this twenty-second day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two.

JULIUS A. GEORGE,	}	Selectmen of Mendon.
ALBERT W. GASKILL,		
LIBERTY FREEMAN,		

A true copy. Attest:

Constable of Mendon.

